

# COMMISSIONER OF POLITICAL PRACTICES



## STATE OF MONTANA

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### PRESS RELEASE

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Supreme Court No. DA 16-0695: Opinion

We are pleased the Montana Supreme Court affirmed Judge Dayton's decision in the Commissioner of Political Practices v. Art Wittich case. Thanks to the thoughtful persistence of Montana citizens Debra Bonogofsky, John Esp and Karolin Rockvoy, Montana campaign finance and disclosure laws remain a strong and powerful ally for openness and transparency in Montana's election process.

Led by the Office of Commissioner of Political Practices Chief Legal Jaime MacNaughton and Special Attorney General Gene Jarussi on appeal, the Montana Supreme Court has upheld the jury's verdict finding former Montana legislator Art Wittich liable for violating Montana campaign finance laws, "the Supreme Court concluded that the Commissioner properly investigated a complaint... did not violate any law when he filed an action against Wittich" and "affirmed the District Court's trial rulings... and acted within its expressed statutory authority when it entered a judgement against Wittich in the amount of \$68,232.58."

The Commissioner of Political Practices and staff look forward to continuing to serve the citizens of Montana with the passion and integrity exhibited by former Commissioner Jonathan Motl, who was responsible for bringing the Wittich case to District Court on behalf of the citizens of Montana.

Jeffrey A. Mangan

Commissioner of Political Practices